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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/049,270	06/27/2002	Hui Zhong	312302US40PCT	9445
22850	7590	05/14/2009	EXAMINER	
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			DINH, TUAN T	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2841	
			NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			05/14/2009	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/049,270	Applicant(s) ZHONG ET AL.	
	Examiner Tuan T. Dinh	Art Unit 2841	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 February 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 9,32,34,36,39 and 40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) 32,34,39-40 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 9 and 36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>11/25/08; 02/19/09; 02/23/09</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 9 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwasaki in view of Ozawa et al. (Patent 6,526,859).

As to claim 9, Iwasaki discloses a multilayered printed circuit board (1, figure 2) comprising:

a conductor circuit (7) and a resin insulating layer (11, 12, 8) serially formed on a substrate (10) in an alternate fashion and in repetition; and

a solder resist layer (8b, figure 2) formed as an outermost layer contains an at least one resin selected from the group consisting of a thermosetting or thermoplastic resin (see column 7, lines 4-6).

Iwasaki does not specific disclose an elastomer component disposed within the resin and is separated in micro-phase as to form an island-in-sea structure after curing in said solder resist layer.

Ozawa et al. teaches a multilayer structure as shown in figures 1-5 comprising an outer layer resin (4) comprising a thermoplastic elastomer composition resin (column 56). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the

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time the invention was made to have a teaching of Ozawa et al. employed in the multilayer circuit board of Iwagashi in order to provide an excellent in flexibability and prevent solder slash.

As to claim 36, Iwasaki discloses a multilayered printed circuit board (1, figure 2) comprising:

a conductor circuit (7) and a resin insulating layer (11, 12, 8) serially formed on a substrate (10) in an alternate fashion and in repetition; and

a solder resist layer (8b, figure 2) formed as an outermost layer contains an at least one resin selected from the group consisting of a thermosetting or thermoplastic resin (see column 7, lines 4-6).

Iwasaki does not specific disclose an elastomer component disposed within the resin and is separated in micro-phase as to form an island-in-sea structure after curing in said solder resist layer.

Ozawa et al. teaches a multilayer structure as shown in figures 1-5 comprising an outer layer resin (4) comprising a thermoplastic elastomer composition resin (column 56). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have a teaching of Ozawa et al. employed in the multilayer circuit board of Iwagashi in order to provide an excellent in flexibability and prevent solder slash.

Ozawa et al. teaches a multilayer structure as shown in figures 1-5 comprising an outer layer resin (4) comprising a thermoplastic elastomer composition resin (column

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56). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have a teaching of Ozawa et al. employed in the multilayer circuit board of Iwagashi in order to provide an excellent in flexibability and prevent solder slash.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 9, 32, 34, 36, and 39-40 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 32, 34, and 39-40 allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the reason for allowance has been stated in the previous Office action.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Enami et al. discloses related art.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tuan T. Dinh whose telephone number is 571-272-1929. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Reichard Dean can be reached on 571-272-1984. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Tuan T Dinh/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2841.